

D-372  
Meyer Nathan Furniture Store  
1892-93  
Cambridge

The Meyer Nathan furniture store building is a prominent three-story pressed brick front commercial block that stands in the center of the High Street section of Cambridge's business district. Erected shortly after the July 1892 fire, the Victorian storefront, combined with the adjacent three-story townhouse residence, was most likely designed and erected by contractor J. Benjamin Brown, one of the city's most prolific builders during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The distinctive use of the round or bulls-eye windows defining the third story and repeated in other Cambridge structures attributed to his hand. The sophistication of the Nathan building exterior with its Victorian format and Colonial Revival overlay references reflect what was current in American architectural circles at the end of the nineteenth century. The World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 greatly influenced American architectural trends, which swerved back to classical roots due to the great emphasis placed on neoclassicism at the fair. The symmetrical design of the storefront section, with a dominant Palladian style window marking the center of the composition, is surmounted by a pressed metal cornice enhanced further by a pressed metal pediment incorporating "M. Nathan" in large block letters across the frieze. Filling the center of the pediment is a stylized sunburst design. The first floor storefront has been restored recently in a determined effort to recreate the original design, which includes large glass display windows and a wide double door entrance. Fluted cast iron columns are fixed inside each outer corner of the display windows. The combination dwelling and storefront stand out on High Street as a

dominant and well preserved commercial block erected alongside other structures built after the devastating 1892 fire.

Meyer Nathan personifies an American rags-to-riches tale with his rise in the city of Cambridge, starting out around 1870 as an itinerant peddler and by his death in 1911, he was the owner of a substantial furniture store, one of the largest on the lower Eastern Shore. After peddling his wares by horse and wagon for many years, Meyer Nathan acquired the capital to lease property on High Street from bank president, William H. Barton, Jr., on June 13, 1887. He shared occupancy of a second quarter of the nineteenth century brick dwelling and store complex with Dr. T. B. Steele. The 1891 Sanborn Insurance map depicts the footprint of a complicated brick and frame structure with two potential dwellings as well as a commercial storefront and storage shed to the rear. The entire complex was completely destroyed in the July 1892 fire that swept High Street. In rebuilding on the same site, part of the mid-nineteenth century foundation was reused for support. During the weeks following the fire, Meyer Nathan announced in the *Democrat and News*,

*M. Nathan informs the public that he is still carrying a good stock of Furniture of all kinds at his new quarters over Dunn & McCready's. His prices are lower now than ever, as he wishes to reduce stock so as to avoid moving it to his new store when completed. He invites his friends to call and look him over.*

Following Meyer Nathan's death in 1911, the furniture business passed to his son, Milford, who expanded the enterprise with another storefront on High Street as well as satellite stores in many other peninsula towns.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-372

### 1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic

Meyer Nathan Furniture Store

other

### 2. Location

street and number 317 High Street

not for publication

city, town Cambridge

vicinity

county Dorchester

### 3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Victor H. and Linda M. MacSorley

street and number Box 760

telephone 410-745-5368

city, town St. Michaels

state MD

zip code 21663

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber PLC 250 folio 234

city, town Cambridge

tax map 301

tax parcel 27

tax ID number 194684

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other:

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	1
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	1
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

## 7. Description

Inventory No. D-372

### Condition

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Meyer Nathan furniture store stands at 317 High Street in the central business district of Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland. The three-story, three-bay commercial block is associated in its simultaneous construction with 315 High Street, the Meyer Nathan townhouse. Built atop a portion of a second quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick foundation of a building that burned in November 1892, the commercial block and house face southeast with a roof that slopes in a long shed profile to the northwest.

Built around 1892-93, the Meyer Nathan commercial block is a three-story, three-bay structure erected in a combination of formal pressed brick with narrow butter joints on the front (southeast) elevation and common bond brick on the other sides. The building shares a common wall with the townhouse built at the same time to the northeast (See D-429). The commercial block extends further back on the lot than the townhouse.

The southeast (main) elevation is a symmetrical three-bay façade with a center entrance and flanking display windows defining the first story. Restored to its original appearance in 2006-07, the front double-door entrance is fixed in recessed bay with an original late 19<sup>th</sup>-century entrance floor intact. The large, commercial display windows to each side have been restored to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Surviving on each side of the display windows are original wooden pilasters rise to ornamental Victorian end blocks that frame a mid-level pressed metal cornice. Fixed inside the inner corners of the display windows are cast iron columns that support part of the storefront structure. The second story is defined by a large, oversized Palladian style window with a round arched center pair of one-over-one windows topped by a round arched transom enhanced with a delicately executed soldier course arch of pressed brick with narrow butter joints. Flanking the center windows are pairs of one-over-one sash windows topped by a stone lintels. The wall surface above is pierced by a pair of four-pane round or bulls-eye windows framed by a narrow soldier brick border. The uppermost section of pressed brick wall surface is pierced by decorative vents with acanthus scrollwork decoration. Stretching across the top of the parapet wall is a decorative pressed metal cornice featuring a centered pediment. The center of the pediment is enriched with a stylized sunburst pattern, and "M. Nathan" is featured in large block letters across the frieze below. The cornice has decorative end brackets surmounted with ball finials.

The northeast and southwest walls are covered largely by adjacent buildings. An enclosed exterior staircase is fixed to the southwest side wall. The sections of wall that are not covered are laid in common bond with two-over-two sash windows lighting the first and second stories. On the northwest side of the commercial block a modern single-story infill has been added with the recent renovations.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Meyer Nathan Furniture Store  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 1

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The interior of the store has been well preserved with beaded board walls and ceilings and narrow tongue-and-groove flooring. Evident on the northeast side wall is a former location of a staircase. The inner wall of the display windows have large twelve-pane double hung windows that have been recently restored. Fixed in the rear corner of the first floor is a short flight of stairs that provides access to a former mezzanine level office. The Victorian stair railing was salvaged from another site. Located in the northwest corner is a closed up access hole for hoisting furniture and other objects between floors. Centered in the room is a boarded over rectangular section that may have been open at one time and framed by a railing on the second floor. The second floor, like the first floor is finished with beaded board walls and ceiling.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. D-372

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

Specific dates

Architect/Builder J. Benjamin Brown, contractor (Attributed)

Construction dates 1892-93

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Meyer Nathan furniture store building is a prominent three-story pressed brick front commercial block that stands in the center of the High Street section of Cambridge's business district. Erected shortly after the July 1892 city fire, the Victorian storefront, combined with the adjacent three-story townhouse residence, was most likely designed and erected by contractor J. Benjamin Brown, one of the city most prolific builders during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The distinctive use of the round or bulls-eye windows defining the third story are repeated in other Cambridge structures attributed to his hand. The sophistication of the Nathan building exterior with its Victorian format and Colonial Revival references reflect what was current in American architectural circles at the end of the nineteenth century. The World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 greatly influenced American architectural trends, which swerved back to classical roots due to the great emphasis placed neoclassicism at the fair. The symmetrical design of the storefront section, with a dominant Palladian style window marking the center of the composition, is surmounted by pressed metal cornice enhanced by a pressed metal pediment incorporating "M. Nathan" in the frieze. Filling the center of the pediment is a stylized sunburst design. The first floor has been restored recently in a determined effort to recreate the original storefront, which includes large glass display windows and a wide double door entrance. Fluted cast iron columns are fixed inside each outer corner of the display windows. The combination dwelling and storefront stand out on High Street as a dominant and well preserved commercial block erected alongside other structures built after the devastating 1892 fire.

Meyer Nathan personifies an American rags-to-riches tale with his rise in the city of Cambridge, starting out around 1870 as an itinerant peddler and by his death in 1911 the owner of one of the most prominent furniture store's on the lower Eastern Shore. After peddling his wares by horse and wagon for many years, Meyer Nathan acquired the capital to lease property on High Street from bank president, William H. Barton, Jr., on June 13, 1887. He shared occupancy of a second quarter of the nineteenth-century brick dwelling



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Name Nathan's Furniture Store  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

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and shop with Dr. T. B. Steele. The 1891 Sanborn Insurance map depicts the footprint of a complicated brick and frame structure with two potential dwellings as well as a commercial storefront and storage shed to the rear. The entire complex was completely destroyed in the July 1892 fire that swept High Street. In rebuilding on the same site, part of the mid nineteenth-century foundation was reused for support. During the weeks following the fire, Meyer Nathan announced in the *Democrat and News*,

*M. Nathan informs the public that he is still carrying a good stock of Furniture of all kinds at his new quarters over Dunn & McCreedy's. His prices are lower now than ever, as he wishes to reduce stock so as to avoid moving it to his new store when completed. He invites his friends to call and look him over.*<sup>1</sup>

Following Meyer Nathan's death in 1911, the furniture business passed to his son, Milford, who expanded the enterprise with another storefront on High Street as well as satellite stores in many other peninsula towns.

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<sup>1</sup> Democrat and News, August 13, 1892.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Nathan's Furniture Store  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

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CHAIN-OF- TITLE  
317 High Street  
Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland

PLC 250/234 High Street Square Association

to

5.26.1988 Victor H. MacSorley  
Linda M. MacSorley

13,284 square feet

224/513 Mercantile-Safe Deposit & Trust Company, Trustee under  
the Last Will and Testament of Milford Nathan

to

10.2.11982 High Street Square Association

Survey of land of Milford Nathan, dated 5.19.1982, Plat Book,  
PLC 28/56

Lease William H. Barton, Jr.  
CL 9/716

to

6.13.1887 Meyer Nathan

Whereas by an act of Assembly of said State passed in the  
year 1787, entitled, "an Act to empower justices of  
Dorchester county Court to lease the Prison lands of said



# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-372

Name Nathan's Furniture Store  
Continuation Sheet

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county—in pursuance of said authority the Justices of the said Court did on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of June in the year 1788 lease said real estate, to several parties, named in said lease which that parcel described as Lot No. 2, in the plot and certificate of William Barrow, surveyor, was leased unto a certain Thomas Lockerman for the term of 99 years from June the 11<sup>th</sup> AD 1788 with covenant for perpetual revival and did also likewise in lease, lot designated as Lot No. 3 in said plot and certificate unto a certain Daniel Akers with like covenant for revival....in consideration of the annual payment of one shilling and six pence per front foot on each of said lease as will fully appear by said lease, plot and certificate now of record in Liber HD No. 2/1-25 inclusive, one of the Land Records of said county....And whereas by a subsequent act of the General Assembly of said state passed in the year 1798 the Levy court of said county was authorized to appoint commissioners to sell and convey the fee in said prison land and in pursuance of said authority did appoint Thomas Jones, Levin Woolford, and Richard Pattison, Commissioners to sell the same, who sold the whole of said lands unto a certain Nicholas Hammond, as will appear by the deed from said Commissioners to the said Nicholas Hammond dated the 4<sup>th</sup> day of June AD 1797, and now recorded in Liber HD 14/100-115, inclusive of said Land Records, and whereas in fee in said lots were conveyed to the said William H. Barton, Jr. on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of September AD 1879 as will appear by two deeds for the same, one from Charles H. Hammond and others, and the other from Charles H. Hammond, Trustee, under a decree of Circuit Court for Talbot County, and now enrolled in Liber I.J. 13/474-477, one of the land records aforesaid. And whereas the Leasehold interest in Lots 2 and 3 as aforesaid has been assigned and conveyed unto the said Meyer Nathan, who now possesses the same, and Whereas the said leases are about to expire and the parties to the lease desire to renew the original have under and by virtue of the covenant for renewal therein contained upon the same terms and conditions, and for the same annual rental as said original

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Nathan's Furniture Store  
Continuation Sheet

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lease is provided, Now therefore in consideration of the premises, and in further consideration of the payment of rent hereafter expressed to be paid, the said William H. Barton, Jr. doth hereby devise and lease unto the said Meyer Nathan all those parcels of ground situated on the north side of High street in the town of Cambridge, in said county fronting eighty feet on High Street and running about three hundred and twenty-five feet northerly to the premises of the said William H. Barton, Jr. and now occupied as a residence by him, the lot hereby leased being now occupied by the said Meyer Nathan and Dr. Thomas Steele and lying between the Brick building occupied by Thomas H. Medford and recently used by him for the Post Office of said town, and the lot now owned by Sarah J. Jordan, widow, of William J. Jordan, deceased, and being Lots No. 2 and 3 as described in the lease hereinbefore referred together with the improvements thereon....to have to hold the above described property unto the said Meyer Nathan his personal representatives and assigns for the term of ninety-nine years beginning on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of June in the year 1887, he the said Meyer Nathan his personal representatives or assigns yielding and paying therefore in each and every year during the continuance of this demise unto the said William H. Barton, Jr. his heirs and assigns the rent or yearly sum of twenty six dollars and sixty six cents from the 11<sup>th</sup> day of June 1887 as aforesaid....

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-372

*Democrat and News*, various issues, Dorchester County Library.  
Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.  
Interview with Victor MacSorley, 8.28.2007

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 13,824 square feet  
Acreage of historical setting 13,824 square feet  
Quadrangle name Cambridge, Maryland 1982 Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	8/28/2007
street & number	Cedar Hill, P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



er w...-framed structures in  
ly's...ck Hotel, where the  
s. Mr. Brayly advertised that  
ie season." In 1897, he took  
lge Hotel.



o afford accommodation to  
ie beautiful town." Dixon's  
ro... fire always burns."  
of which stopped calling



Meyer Nathan reached Cambridge around 1870, an itinerant peddler selling little necessities from a backpack door-to-door and farm-to-farm. Gradually he acquired a mule, a wagon, and within twelve years, a furniture store. *The Cambridge News* announced on April 1, 1882, "A new furniture store has been opened on High Street by Mr. M. Nathan, who will . . . sell furniture at regular city prices so that those needing articles in his line will save time and cost in buying at home." Thus, it was no longer necessary to order furniture from Baltimore catalogs to be shipped by steamer or carried home on a neighbor's schooner. Nathan lost his store and home in 1892, when even the contents of his safe were charred beyond recognition. Among those carrying insurance, he received \$2,000 to rebuild. The Nathans posed for this picture around 1908 before their new furniture store and in the second-floor window of their townhouse to the right. After Meyer's death in 1911, his son Milton further expanded business into 18 stores up and down Delmarva.

## LOGUST

# CHURCH

14

# HIGH

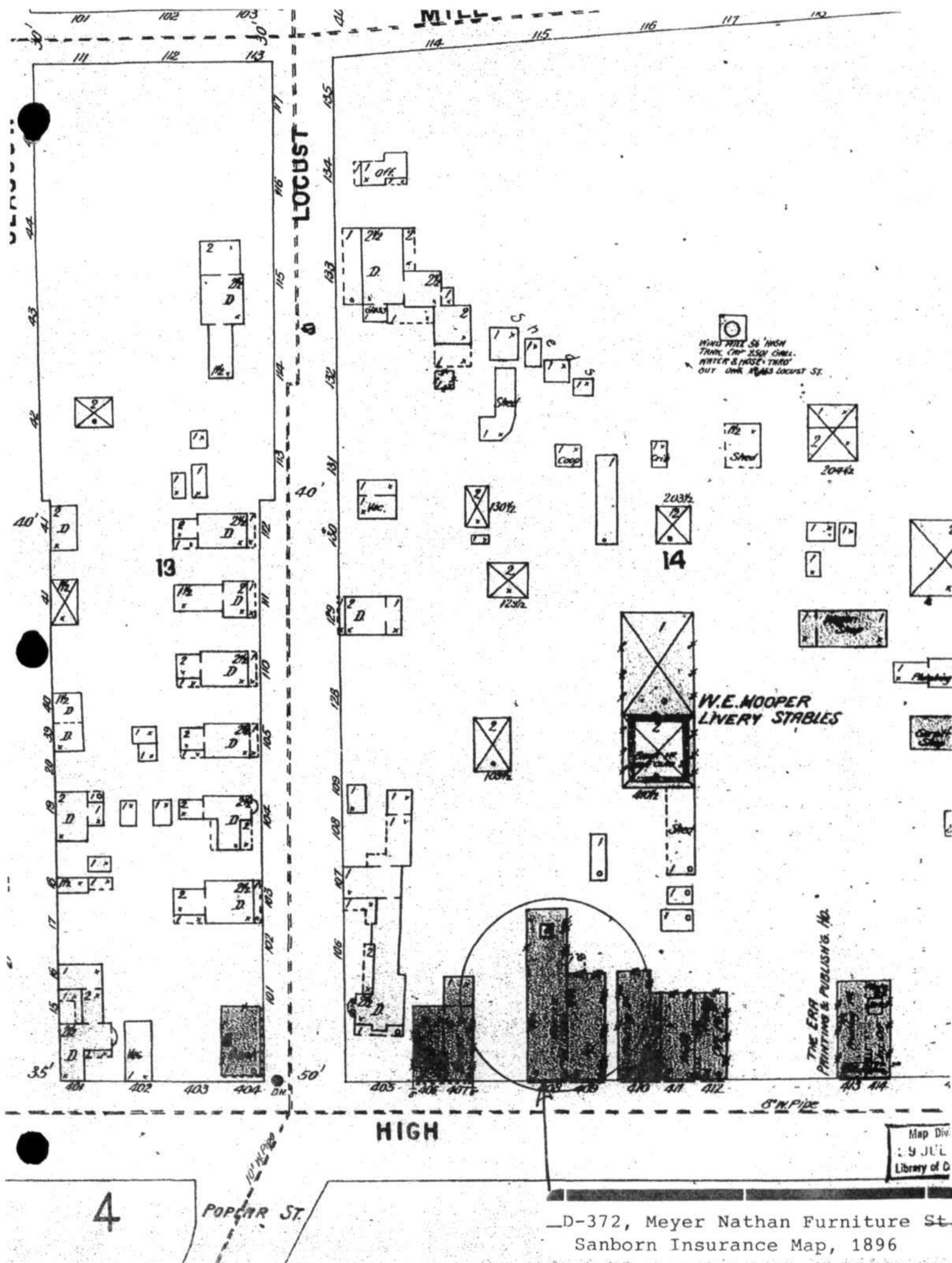
POPLAR ST

№ 4

SEE SWEET NO. 2.

D-372, Meyer Nathan Furniture St.  
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1891





D-372, Meyer Nathan Furniture St.  
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1896

C H O P T A N K R I V E R







D-372, Meyer Nathan Furniture St  
Cambridge, MD Ouadrangle. 1988



D-372

Meyer Nathan's Furniture Store  
Cambridge, Dorchester Co., MD.  
Southeast elevation

9/07, Paul Touret, Photogrammetrist  
Net. / MD. Historical Trust



D-372

MEYER-NATHAN'S FURNITURE  
STONE  
CAMBRIDGE, DORCHESTER CO., MD.

SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

9/07, PAUL TOUANT, PHOTO.

NEZ. / MD HISTORICAL TRUST

2/3



D-372

Meyer Nathan's Furniture Store  
Cambridge, Dorchester Co. MD.  
Northwest elevation of Rear  
Facade

9/07, Paul Towart, Photo & Caption  
Neg / MD. Historical Trust

3/3



## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Nathan's Furniture Store

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

317 High Street

1

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Dorchester

STATE

COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☒ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Milford Nathan Est.

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Dorchester County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

206 High Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

STATE

Maryland 21613

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

D-372

**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This three story brick building adjoins the two neighboring structures, 315 and 319 High Street. Although 319 is of a lower elevation, 317 and 315 are the same height sharing a continuous cornice of the same design. The facades differ, however. Above the cornice of 317 High Street, which is ornamented by pointed dentils and brackets at the corners, is a tablet inscribed "M. Nathan". Over this tablet is a triangular pediment with a ray pattern ornamentation. On the third story are two bullseye windows, and the second story is embellished with a large palladian window. The first story, however, appears to have undergone modernization.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## PERIOD

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 100-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although the first story has been renovated, it is obvious that this was originally a quite handsome and stylish building. The upper two stories, with their classical details, are in good condition. This building contributes to the 19th century character of this block of High Street.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Catherine L. Moore

ORGANIZATION

DATE

12/3/75

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Route 3, Box 32

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Cambridge

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

315-317 High Street  
Cambridge, Maryland

Add Reference: W/R APM 1/479

This is the oldest part of Nathan's Furniture and was built in 1892-1893, by Meyer Nathan, the founder of the business. Nathan established his first store in Cambridge in 1880. The original building was a two and a half story Georgian structure that burned down in the 1892 fire on High Street. Meyer Nathan died in 1911, with the store going to his son Milford. In 1914, he opened a branch in Seaford, Delaware, followed by a store in Salisbury, Maryland in 1922. By the early 1950's, Nathan's had seven stores on the Delmarva Peninsula. The first story of this building has been altered, but the remaining floors retain the original appearance. This building is one of several commercial structures from the late nineteenth century that add to the character of the portion of High Street.

Sources:

Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

Court Records.

Land Records.

Will Records.

Dorchester County Office Building, Cambridge, Maryland.

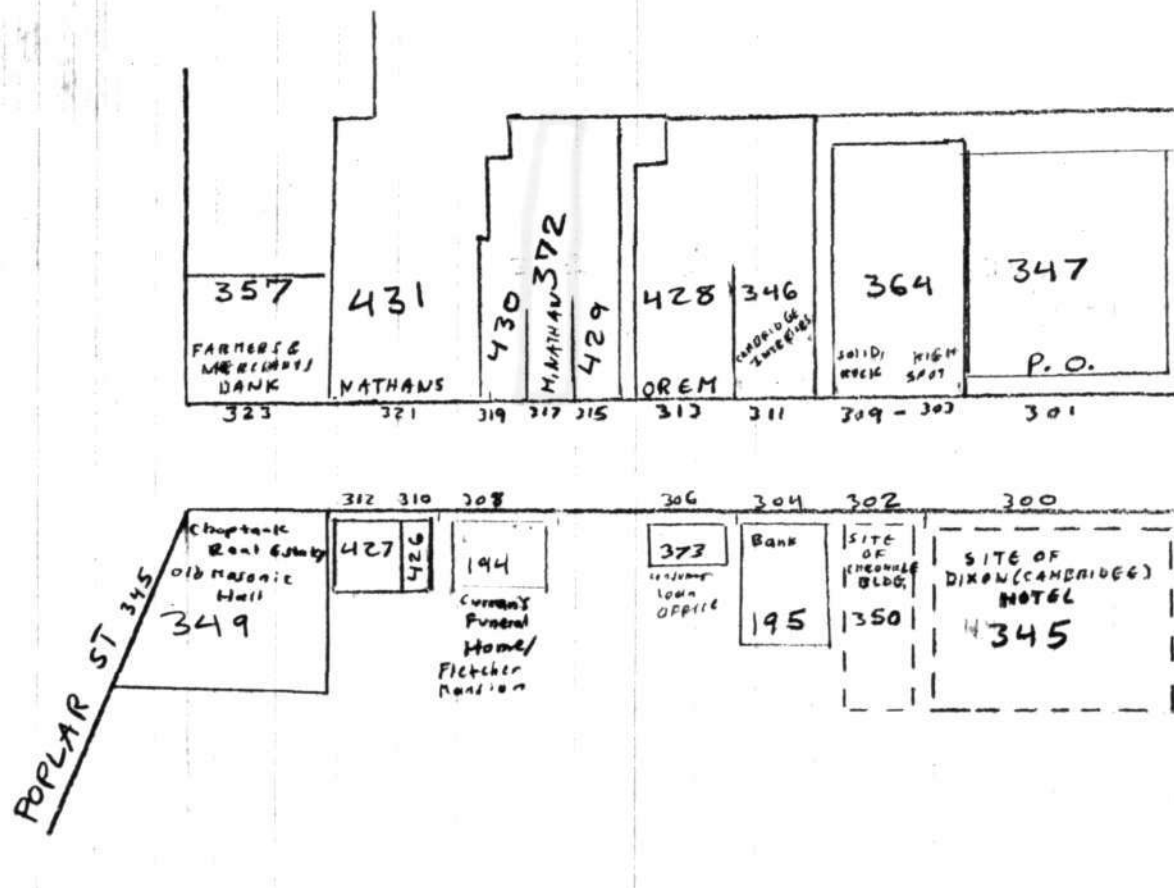
Assessment Records.

"Nathan's Stores Are Eastern Shore Area Community Centers",  
Furniture World, June 26, 1952, pp. 40-41.

Research by:

Terrance P. Walbert

1976.

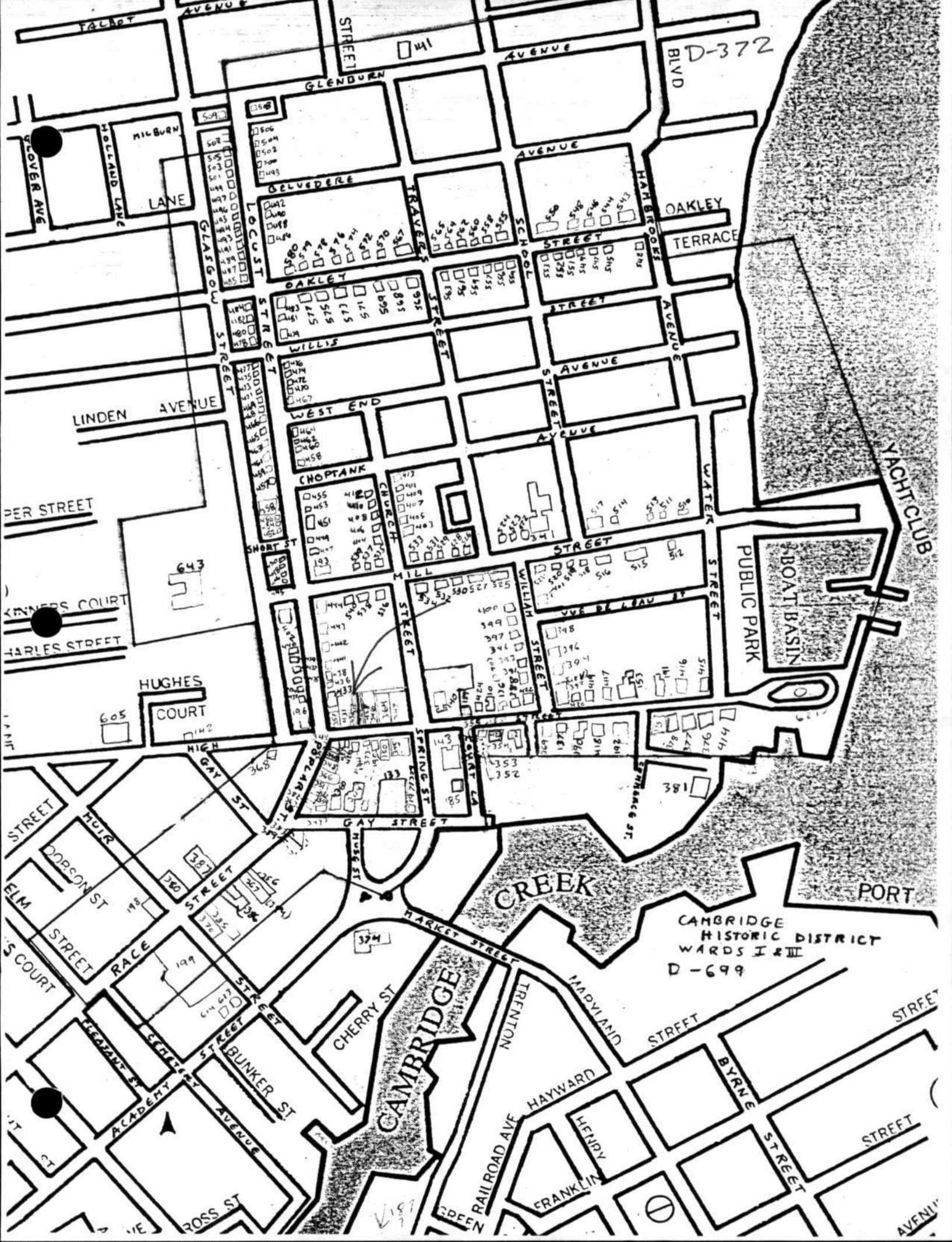


HIGH STREET  
← (300 BLOCK)

J. KOZLAY  
12/21/93

D-372







D-372

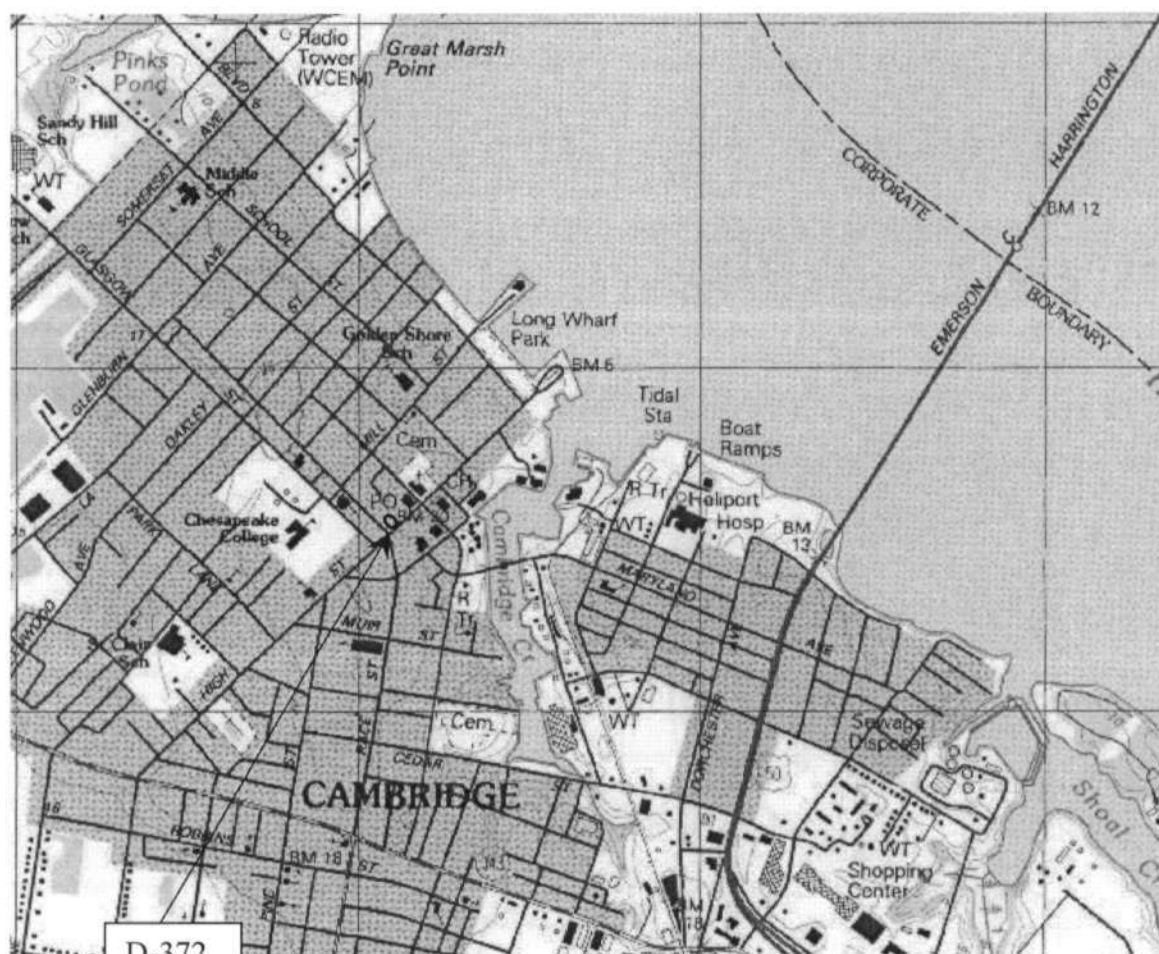
M. Nathan's (formerly Nathan's Furniture Store)

315-317 High St.

Cambridge

Cambridge Quad.

Dorchester Co.



13x1-67

50% D-372



D-372

Nathan's Furniture Store  
315-17 High St.  
Cambridge  
C week,  
6/81



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